SECOND INTERIM WHEAT POOL PAYMENT 20c

Federal General Election on Tuesday, September 14th

THE U.F.A.

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE UNITED FARMERS of ALBERTA

Vol. V. CALGARY, ALBERTA, AUGUST 2, 1926 No. 30

Political Party System Formed on Competitive Basis Offers no Hope of Bringing Order out of the Present Confusion

Time Has Come When Those Who Stand for New System of Co-operation in Place of Partyism Must Stand Solidly in Defence of Our Movement—The Responsibility of U. F. A. Membership for the Maintenance of Their Own Principles in Forthcoming Federal Election

By PRESIDENT WOOD

The article printed below was written by President Wood just prior to his leaving Calgary for the Orient and Australia, on an important mission in behalf of the Alberta Wheat Pool.

President Wood expresses the opinion that the time has come when our representatives "who stand definitely for a system (which is definitely opposed to the old system), will have to stand solidly together as a unit in its defence." He points out that "this will not weaken their position in any way. Their voting strength will be just as great as it has been. In fact it will be greater, because it will be more highly mobilized. Nor need it in any way weaken the strength of those who have been acting with them." He calls attention to the serious responsibility for the upholding of U. F. A. principles which rests upon every member who accepts a U. F. A. nomination.

It is unfortunate that we are facing another Dominion election. Nine months ago we had a Dominion election. From the various Provinces of Canada, 245 members were elected to go to the seat of the Government and carry on the business and legislation of the Dominion. These 245 elected members have failed, both the business and legislation of the Government have been left in a confused if not chaotic condition. They have come back for another election, and are offering no reasonable hope of better results.

FIERCE CONFLICT FOR SUPPORT OF BEWILDERED CITIZENSHIP

Our political party system is organized on a competitive basis, and neither of the warring parties received sufficient strength from the last election to dominate the situation, in the face of opposition from the other. There is no suggestion offered by either of the warring parties as to co-operation, or even cessation of hostilities between them. The campaign will be a fierce conflict for the support of a confused and bewildered citizenship.

The probabilities are that a very large percentage of an already nauseated citizenship will remain away from the polls. They are sick of the disgusting turmoil between the place hunters of the two warring factions. No reform is offered, and no real attempt is being made to bring order out of the present situation of hopeless confusion. The only question that as yet seems to be raised to the point of an issue, is a legal rather than a legislative one. It is one that cannot be settled at the polls.

Seven years ago the United Farmers of Alberta, seeing the utter hopelessness of the system out of which this situation of utter confusion has grown, inaugurated a new one. This new system was based on the principle of political co-operation, instead of political conflict. Its aim is to get all legitimate citizenship interests systematically co-operating with each other for the common good.

CONSTRUCTION IMPOSSIBLE ON PARTY BASIS

On this basis stable government can be inaugurated and maintained, and on it intelligent and wholesome legislation can be reasonably hoped for. On the present party basis, co-operation is impossible and intelligent, constructive, wholesome legislation is just as impossible. An undecided, endless conflict between the warring elements of a divided citizenship is the only prospect that is offered.

HIGHER DEVELOPMENT SHOWN IN PROVINCIAL ELECTION

Our movement successfully passed through its first educational campaign in Alberta five years ago. It passed through its second campaign last month. The results from every standpoint showed a higher development of citizenship in Alberta than there was five years ago. More members were elected. Everywhere the citizens showed a clearer understanding of both the old and new systems. The orthodox methods of professional politicians and the political press met with less response perhaps than they ever did before at any time or place. If the people in Alberta continue their citizenship development and their exercise of it in a practical way, the power of the political machine, including the party press, is forever broken in this Province.

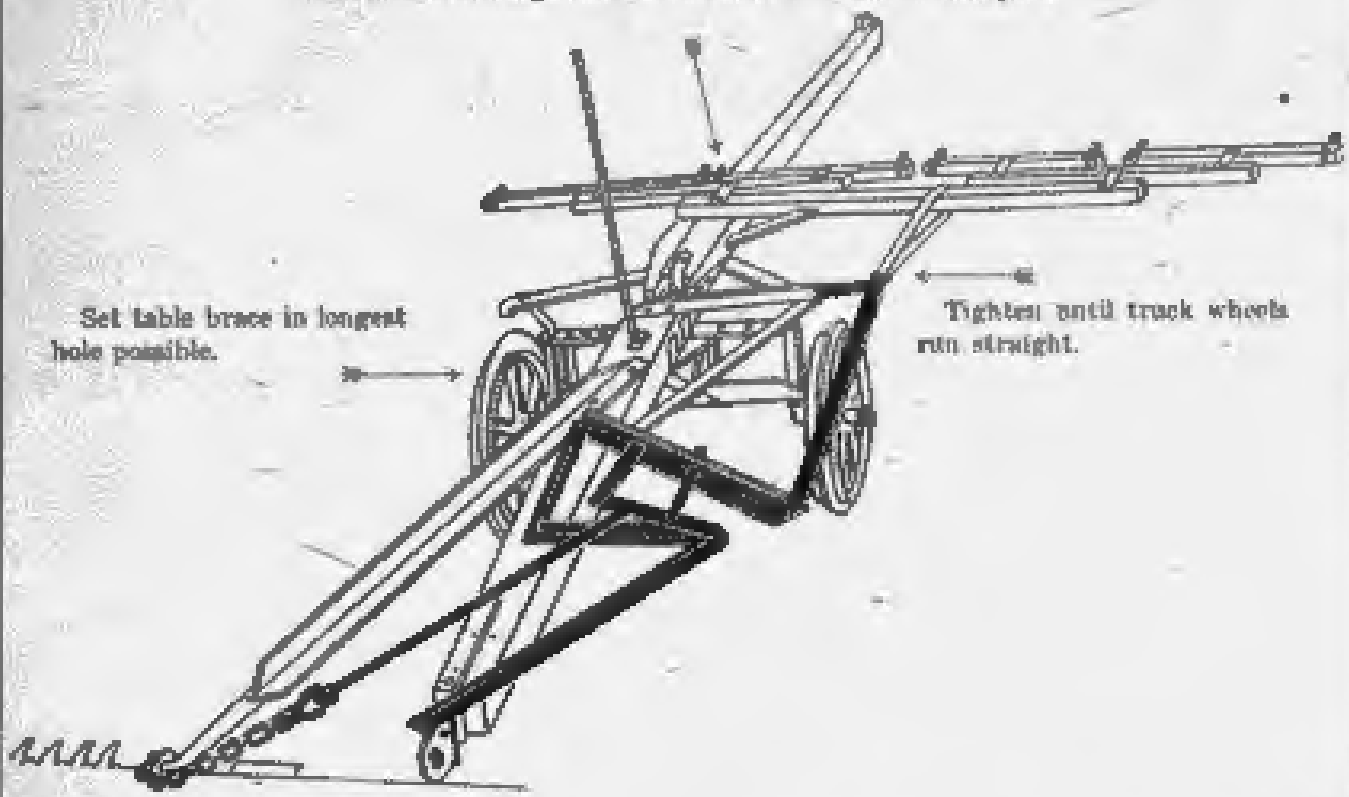
We are now approaching a Federal election. This will be the third one since the inauguration of our new system. Conditions are very different in the Federal field from those in the Province. The principles are just the same, but our U. F. A. members are few in number as compared with the whole number of members in the Federal House. They are separated from the electorate during the whole of the period of the long drawn out sessions. They are under the blighting influences of a conflict between the forces of confusion, played by the most unscrupulous actors in the whole Dominion political field.

(Continued on page 16)

The New Ideal Binder Hitch

Patent No. 250216 1925

Move eveners to right until doubletree is centered over pole.



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The IDEAL binder hitch makes a perfect 5-horse hitch for hills or heavy cutting.

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CIRCULATION

Average paid circulation
Average 6 months ending July 3...[illegible]

THE U.F.A.

Published by
THE UNITED FARMERS OF ALBERTA
EDITORIAL OFFICES
CALGARY - ALBERTA
Editor
W. NORMAN SMITH

ADVERTISING

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Vol. V. CALGARY, ALBERTA, AUGUST 2, 1926 No. [illegible]

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EDITORIAL

THE CALGARY CONFERENCE

The experience of U. F. A. members in the last House of Commons has proved to the hilt the soundness of the plan of Parliamentary organization laid down in the Declaration of Principles adopted by the Annual Convention of 1925.

This was clearly demonstrated at the conference held in Calgary last week. Following a very thorough discussion of the Parliamentary situation, and of the relationship of the U. F. A. representatives to other groups, the opinion of the conference was expressed in two important resolutions adopted by unanimous vote. These resolutions are printed in this issue. They will come before all U. F. A. Federal Constituency Conventions as recommendations, and before the next Annual Convention. They emphasize the vital importance of preserving the identity of the U. F. A. representatives at Ottawa as a group unit, and of avoiding any form of merger with other groups not organized on the same basis as the U. F. A., and they indicate clearly the responsibility of the whole group to the Association. The experience of the Federal members themselves, in their legislative work in the House of Commons, has confirmed completely the wisdom of the decision of the Annual Convention.

* * *

In discussion of the constitutional issue, neither of the old political parties has advanced a single constructive suggestion, with a view to increasing the efficiency of our Parliamentary institutions. The resolution adopted by the Calgary conference, as a recommendation to the Federal Constituency Associations and to the Annual Convention, contains the only constructive suggestion which has been offered from any quarter. The resolution was moved by E. J. Garland, and D. M. Kennedy, Robert Gardiner, Henry Spencer and G. G. Coote spoke in support of the proposal on one occasion or another during the conference.

* * *

TO ATTAIN STABILITY

The Governor-General should have no responsibility for the dissolution of Parliament. Neither should the Prime Minister. If stability is to be attained in our Parliamentary institutions; if they are to be freed from the demoralizing effect of the sterile struggle between massed battalions of the "ins" and the "outs", while the Premier of the day holds the threat of dissolution over the heads of his following as a "disciplinary" weapon, the adoption of the principle laid down in this resolution is imperative. Until it is adopted there can be little progress in constructive legislation.

* * *

As Robert Gardiner pointed out in an interview on his return from Ottawa at the close of the session, the "stability" which is desired by the old parties is the stability of a Parliamentary majority strong enough to enable the Government of the day to ride roughshod over the rights of the members of the House, and to "hush up" such serious public scandals as the scandal in the Customs Department. It was the presence in the House of Commons of independent groups which controlled the balance of power, that alone made the probe into the Customs Department possible.

* * *

SHOULD REST WITH PEOPLE'S REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. King had no moral right to seek a dissolution of Parliament at a time when he was faced with an imminent and fully deserved vote of censure, but the right to deny a dissolution should rest with the House of Commons, not with the representative of the Crown.

Mr. Meighen was clearly not within his rights in adopting the methods which he did adopt after taking office. In the first place, it was open to him to have sought an adjournment of the House for a few weeks in order to hold the necessary by-elections, and to have completed the program of the session. What the attitude of the Liberals might have been had nothing to do with the matter. The interests of the country plainly demanded that he take this course. As it is, he has wantonly sacrificed an important program of legislation, to serve party ends.

* * *

Mr. Meighen must bear full responsibility for the loss of the act to establish a system of Long Term Credit for farmers. For the sacrifice of this legislation no explanation has been given. This measure, like the bill to provide for the development of the Montreal Harbor Board, and one other bill, had passed both Houses of Parliament and merely awaited the royal assent when Mr. Meighen advised dissolution. We know of no valid excuse for Mr. Meighen's failure to present this legislation for the Governor-General's signature, before seeking a dissolution of Parliament.

* * *

THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

For the political parties a political "platform" is a device for securing votes, and is as a rule a hurriedly drafted document produced on the eve of a general election, and for the most part forgotten immediately afterwards. The legislative program upon which the Calgary Conference laid emphasis, is a reiteration of policies for which the U. F. A. has been striving for some years past—the policies laid down from time to time by the Annual Convention. Since 1921, it has been possible to carry into effect many of the Convention policies, through pressure of the Parliamentary group at Ottawa. The Calgary conference expressed appreciation of the work which these members have accomplished, and laid emphasis on a number of the more important policies which U. F. A. members will seek to realize in the next House of Commons. The program is of value in that it focusses attention on issues of vital importance to the primary producers, and to the great masses of the people of Canada of all classes.

* * *

No candidate for election to the House of Commons who will not pledge himself to oppose with all his energies any form of export duty on Canadian wheat, should receive a single farmer vote.

Two members of the last House of Commons, Fred Davis of East Calgary, who is a representative of the Conservative party, and Dr. Gershaw of Medicine Hat, who is a Liberal, have carried on a violent flirtation with export duty proposals,

Need for Replacement of Party System by Co-operation in Political Affairs Never More Manifest Than Today

"Stability" as Defined by the Old Parties Means Complete Domination of the People by Party Machine Controlled by a Single Class Which Is Opposed to Great Masses of Canadian People—Stability Desired by U. F. A. Is Dependent on Co-operation Between Democratic Groups—Co-operation in Place of Party Warfare the Real Issue in Federal Election

By WILLIAM IRVINE

The stormy session of the last Parliament ended abruptly in dissolution. From the opening ceremony up to the last hectic moment of desperate wrangling between the two leaders of the old parties, the spectacle has been such as to reveal the outstanding weaknesses of the party system and has amply demonstrated its inadequacy.

PARTY SYSTEM HAS FAILED TO FUNCTION

The party system has failed to function. Legislation could not be put through the House because the two major parties were more interested in fighting each other for the spoils of office, than they were in providing the legislation necessary to the well-being of the Dominion.

In addition to the failure of the party system to function, the customs enquiry has brought to light such corruption as to disgust even the champions of the party system. This tottering and corrupt condition of the party system has resulted in a regretted instability of government.

It is only about nine months since the last election and here we are plunged into another, merely because neither of the two major parties is willing to help the affairs of government unless one or the other is given absolute autocratic power, and yet when that power is given, it is used to promote and cover up corruptions of the nature and magnitude of that which has occupied the attention of the nation during the last session in connection with the Customs scandal.

INSTABILITY DUE ENTIRELY TO PARTY SYSTEM

The present instability of government is due entirely to the party system. The Canadian people are being harassed and put to the unnecessary expenditure of another general election because of the corruption and inefficiency of that system. Let it be borne in mind that it is this system, and none other, that has failed, and that the mere changing from one party to another at the ballot box will neither clean the corruption of the system, nor make it function. We will be told by the party leaders that one of the issues in the present election is stable government. But they appeal to the people on the party principle and that is the principle which has produced unstable government. What hope of obtaining stable government can there be if the present system is to be continued?

WHAT THE POLITICAL PARTIES MEAN BY "STABLE GOVERNMENT"

What is meant by a "stable government" in the mouths of party advocates? It means simply numerical strength on the part of the governing party sufficient to permit complete domination in all matters of legislation and administration. Desirable though stable government may be, if it can be attained only by the complete domination of one party (and that party in turn controlled by one class), then the price is too high. It would be far better to put up with the inconvenience of unstable government until such time as party men are compelled to abandon the conflict for power to adopt the true basis of stable government, which is co-operation.

REAL ISSUE IN THIS ELECTION

This brings us to the real issue of the election insofar as the U. F. A. is concerned and that is to hold our ground for the establishment in the affairs of government of the co-operative idea rather than the competitive one. The U. F. A. entered Dominion politics in 1921. It did so not only as a protest against a political system which had become both corrupt and inefficient, but also in order to project into our political thought the constructive idea of co-operation for political justice, as a substitute for the outworn method of competition for political power.

That the party system needs to be replaced by a better, was never more clearly revealed than at this moment. If the U. F. A. had not been stirred to action prior to this time, surely what has occurred at Ottawa during the last nine months would have given the movement ample justification for putting forward a political effort. Party men will, very likely, endeavor to blame the groups in the House, which are distinct from the two major parties, for the unstable condition.

CUSTOMS SCANDAL WOULD HAVE BEEN HUSHED UP

It is true, of course, that if we had had stable government under the party system that the Customs corruption would have been hushed up. The U.F.A. members insisted on the investigation and had the power to prevent the Government from covering up its tracks. It is true also that the result of that investigation brought about the downfall of the Government. But who wants a stable Government if it rests upon foundations so corrupt? The Canadian people may not desire an election at this time, but it is safe to say that they would rather have the inconvenience of an election than to think of the continuation of a scientific system of corruption under the knowledge of the Government and aided by its officials. So, while the U. F. A. representatives were the means of bringing out the facts in regard to the Customs probe, the downfall of the Government was due entirely to its own corruption, and that downfall and the subsequent immediate collapse of Mr. Meighen's Government, means that the party system as now in practice cannot produce stable government.

NOT THE ONLY WAY NOR THE BEST WAY

Every one will admit that a Government carried on by a party with a large majority will have at least the outward appearance of stability. That party's will, in that case, can be made effective. If this were the only way to secure stable Government we might have to return to it notwithstanding its class legislation, its autocracy and corruption. But this is not the only way nor the best way to attain stable government.

The U. F. A. stands for stability of government. It wants to build that stability on the co-operative basis, and that is our constructive contribution both to the legislative and constitutional questions of the hour.

Before co-operation between groups in Parliament is possible, these groups must be freed from the party practices which deliberately confuse an issue with the Government's right to retain office. The first step forward to be taken in the House of Commons is to adopt the principle that the defeat of a measure introduced by the Government shall not in itself constitute a sufficient reason for the defeat of the Government, but that every Government must be allowed to continue in office to the end of its term unless a direct vote of no confidence be passed. Such a no-confidence vote must be separated from every issue whatsoever except that of the efficiency and integrity of the administration itself. This alteration will provide the means of stable Government in a House where there are more than two groups, and will make true co-operation in all matters of legislation possible.

The way of progress for the U. F. A. is clear. If our candidates are not returned, the party system will be returned. If our candidates go back to Ottawa we shall ultimately secure recognition for the co-operative principle and begin therefrom to build the new system for which the U. F. A. stands.

PICNIC AT EDMONTON BEACH

Members and friends of Holborn U. F. W. A. Local enjoyed a very pleasant picnic at Edmonton Beach recently, and held a dance a few days later for the purpose of raising funds.

News of the Organization

Activities of Locals and District Associations and Information From Central Office—Notes on Co-operation

Replies Deal With Resolutions of the U.F.A. Convention

King Deals With Six Resolutions, Not Included in Spencer's First Report

Since our last issue went to press, H. E. Spencer, secretary of the U. F. A. group at Ottawa, has received the following letter from ex-Premier King, dealing with resolutions of the U. F. A. Annual Convention which had been submitted to him at the last session of Parliament:

House of Commons.
Leader of the Opposition.
Ottawa, July 14, 1938.

H. E. Spencer, Esq.,
Box 67, Edgerton, Alberta.

Dear Mr. Spencer:

I duly received your communication with reference to six resolutions passed by a Provincial Convention of the U.F.A. and U. F. W. A. in Alberta last January. I regret that circumstances beyond my control prevented me from discussing the resolutions with you prior to the end of the session or of sending you before this an expression of opinion thereon.

RE POWER TO AMEND B. N. A. ACT

With regard to the resolution referring to the power to amend the British North America Act, I quite agree that the authority of the Canadian Parliament should stand supreme. If there are any clauses of the B. N. A. Act which restrict the plenary powers of our Parliament they should be amended. In this connection I should say that in my opinion we already have, within the provisions of our constitution, the power of amendment of the B. N. A. Act in any particular. The procedure is to all intents and purposes a mere matter of form. I do not think the British Parliament would do other than comply with the wishes of the Canadian people with respect to any amendment our Parliament might recommend.

RE CONSCRIPTION OF WEALTH

With respect to the Resolution on Conscription, I agree that where conscription is resorted to in case of war, all wealth, resources, factories, etc., should be put at the disposal of the country, and that conscription should apply without regard to rank, wealth or position.

RE CELEBRATION OF ARMISTICE

With respect to the day of the celebration of Armistice Day, I should be agreeable to whatever might most accord with the wishes of the people at large. If there were any difficulty in ascertaining this through the people's representatives in Parliament, I would be agreeable to taking a referendum on the matter and abiding by the result.

ATHABASCA "CESS" POOL FUND

Previously acknowledged	$1,364.79
Scenic Heights 154	7.00
Chesterwold 579	2.00
"A Friend", Rodway Centre	10.00
	$1,383.79

RE SALARY OF LEADER OF OPPOSITION

I regret that I am unable to agree with the opinion expressed in the resolution respecting the special allowance paid to Leaders of the Opposition. The Leader of the Opposition, under our system of Parliamentary government, performs an important function and duties which require his entire time, not only when Parliament is in session but throughout the year. Unless given a reasonable remuneration I doubt if it would be possible to obtain the services of qualified persons so situated as to be able to devote their whole time to the duties of the office. The amount to be allowed is, of course, a matter which permits of difference of opinion.

RE ABSENCE FROM DUTY OF MEMBERS

I am in hearty accord with the resolution expressing the view that members of Parliament be not allowed habitually to absent themselves from their Parliamentary duties.

RE REORGANIZATION OF PENSIONS BOARD

As regards the last resolution, I would favor any reorganization of the Pensions Board which would gain for ex-service men suffering from disabilities a larger measure of just and fair consideration of their claims when disabled, than is afforded by the Board as at present constituted. In this connection special regard should, in my opinion, be had to the functions and services of the Federal Appeal Board instituted for the special purpose of securing a large measure of just and fair consideration of the claims of disabled ex-service men.

I trust that this brief expression of view with respect to the resolutions which you have brought to my attention will suffice to give you the information desired with respect to my opinion in reference thereto.

With kind regards.

Yours very truly,
W. L. MACKENZIE KING.

DO SOME MEN PREFER TO BE ALONE?

Editor, "The U. F. A.":

South View Local is certainly to be congratulated on coming so near to securing 100 per cent. of the farmers of their district into their organization.

I wonder if any other polling division came any nearer to securing 100 per cent. of the votes for the farmer member than the Trego polling division, where every vote cast with one exception was cast for the farmer candidate.

In making a house to house canvass for membership for our Local and for votes for our candidate, I found one bachelor neighbor who claimed to know nothing about what the Farmers' Government had accomplished, and the worst of it was that he did not seem to care to learn.

When I stated that I thought if the farmers' organization was helping to improve conditions for the farmers of the Province, that it deserved the support of every farmer, and that if we were not doing any good that we should find it out and disband, he agreed with me, but when it came to giving up the $3 membership fee he declined to contribute.

He may eventually become lonesome and join us, but a man who can live without a family may be able to live without the association of his fellow men.

We are still living in hopes.

W. D. TREGO.

Arrowwood, Alta.

NEW LOCAL AT COLD LAKE

A new U. F. A. Local was organized at Cold Lake recently by Mr. Fuller. Jens Vaaspo of Cold Lake was elected president and Achille Mulkay secretary-treasurer. The following are the charter members: Jens Vaaspo, Achille Mulkay, J. F. Hautelman, A. C. Vaaspo, Leo Colomb, Joseph Mabeet and Octave Boujie.

COPIES OF JUNE 17th ISSUE NEEDED

The issue of "The U. F. A." of June 17th was in great demand during the election campaign, and barely enough copies are left in the office for filing purposes. If any readers have copies of this issue they can spare, will they kindly return them to the office, Loughead Building, Calgary?

BUSY YEAR AT RANFURLY

Ranfurly U. F. W. A. Local has had a very busy and profitable year, according to a report from the corresponding secretary, Mrs. F. Lundgren. During the winter a series of whist drives were held in the members' homes, and enough money was raised in this way to send a delegate to the Annual Convention, and to reduce the fees to $1 per member. At present the members are engaged in piecing a quilt for the Red Cross, and arrangements have been made to serve lunch at the annual convention of the constituency association.

A SUCCESSFUL PLAN

Some time ago Willow Hollow Local passed a resolution making fees due and payable on January 1st of each year, and according to all paid up members the privilege of attending the annual banquet. This plan has met with great success, states E. C. Marquis, secretary, as nearly all members pay in advance now.

Preservation of Identity of U. F. A. Group in House of Commons Is Unanimously Recommended by Calgary Conference

Conference of Central Executive, Representatives of Federal Constituency Associations and Federal Members of Last Parliament, Emphasizes Policy Laid Down by Annual Convention in Declaration of Principles—Program of Legislation Recommended—The Constitutional Issue From the Standpoint of the U. F. A.

Expressing appreciation and approval of the unremitting efforts of the U.F.A. group in the House of Commons to advance the legislative policies which have been laid down by the Annual Convention, an important conference, representative of every U. F. A. Federal Constituency Association in Alberta with the exception of West Calgary, was held in Nolan's Hall, Calgary, on Friday, July 23rd.

MERELY EMPHASIZES CONVENTION POLICIES

The Conference drew up a list of legislative demands to be sought by all U. F. A. representatives in the next House of Commons. This program was based upon the policies of the Annual Convention. It was recognized that the Conference was not a body possessed of powers to lay down any "political platform". All of the items in the proposed program of legislation concern demands already advanced by the Annual Convention. For these policies the U. F. A. group have striven, with some notable successes, since 1921. One new proposal, to the effect that no House of Commons should be dissolved prior to the expiration of the statutory term of five years except by consent of the majority of the House of Commons, was unanimously adopted as a recommendation to the Federal Constituency Associations now meeting, and to the Annual Convention to be held next year.

GROUP COHESION STRONGLY EMPHASIZED

The Conference also adopted by unanimous vote a recommendation that all Federal Constituency Associations pledge their candidates to the Declaration of Principles unanimously passed by the U. F. A. Annual Convention in 1925; and recommended that the U. F. A. members report to the Annual Convention and to the U. F. A. Central Executive and Central Board, as a group unit.

The vital importance of retaining the identity of the U. F. A. members as a distinct group unit in the Federal House of Commons, and of avoiding anything in future in the nature of amalgamation or affiliation with any other group, was dwelt upon by almost every speaker who participated in the discussions of the day, and this view was clearly expressed in the resolution on the subject adopted without a dissentient vote.

NO MERGING OF GROUP IDENTITY

Robert Gardiner, H. E. Spencer, E. J. Garland, D. M. Kennedy and others all expressed themselves as strongly in favor of this course, and it was their opinion that the power of any other groups which might have similar legislative aims to the U. F. A. would be increased and not diminished, by the organization of the U. F. A. representatives in Parliament as a distinct group. The U. F. A. members will co-operate with any other group or party in the interests of desired legislation, but will form no organic association with any other group not organized upon the same basis as the U. F. A. At present the U. F. O., of which Miss McPhail is a representative, is the only group organized upon the same basis as the U. F. A.

It was the general opinion of the Conference that the decisions arrived at will make for greater cohesion among U. F. A. representatives, in the advancing of U. F. A. policies in the House of Commons.

Three members of the last House were not present—Mr. Speakman and Mr. Lucas, who are overseas, and Mr. Boutillier, who was not in the Province.

H. E. G. R. Scholefield, who has been appointed Acting President of the Association in the absence of President Wood, was elected to the chair, and presided over the Conference throughout.

SPECIAL ISSUES OF "THE U. F. A."

The Conference asked that special weekly issues of "The U. F. A." be published from August 15 to the end of the campaign, and that an appeal be made to the Federal Constituency Associations to defray expenses.

"The U. F. A. membership," said Mr. Cates, "is convinced that 'The U. F. A.' paper is the only source of information which they can rely on"; while Mr. Sinclair added that he knew of no enterprise which the Association had taken up, which had paid and could pay greater

Unanimous Recommendations of the Calgary Conference

NO AMALGAMATION WITH ANY OTHER GROUP

"This Conference recommends that every U. F. A. candidate be pledged to the Declaration of Principles passed at the Annual Convention, 1925, and that in accordance with the spirit and letter of this resolution we recommend that the U. F. A. members at Ottawa preserve their identity as a U. F. A. group unit in the next House of Commons, and do not in any manner amalgamate, or become part of any other party or group not organized on the same basis for political action as the U. F. A. That a copy of this resolution be sent to every Federal Constituency Association for consideration and also be brought before the Annual Convention.

RESPONSIBILITY OF U. F. A. GROUP TO THE ORGANIZATION

"That this Conference recommends to the Federal Constituency Associations that the members of the Federal U. F. A. group, who may be elected in the forthcoming Federal general election, recognizing the supreme authority in the Association, the Annual Convention, and their delegated officials, the U. F. A. Central Board and Executive, report as a group unit to these bodies."

SANCTION OF HOUSE OF COMMONS FOR DISSOLUTION

"Whereas, the power of a Prime Minister to advise a dissolution or threaten it at will, places him in a position of almost autocratic authority, and imposes serious restrictions upon the freedom of the members of the House of Commons, and,

"Whereas, the power to advise a dissolution, when lightly exercised, threatens the stability of Parliamentary institutions and may plunge the country into unnecessary elections, and,

"Whereas, the Governor-General may be placed in an invidious position as a result of improper advice as to dissolution tendered him by the Prime Minister of the day; and,

"Whereas, it is undesirable that the representative of the Crown should at any time be in danger of appearing to become involved in a party controversy, as the result of such improper advice;

"Therefore be it resolved, that subject to the statutory limitation of five years upon the life of Parliament, the Prime Minister shall be under obligation to obtain the sanction of a majority of the House of Commons before advising His Excellency the Governor-General to dissolve Parliament.

"That a copy of this resolution be sent to every Federal Constituency Association for consideration, and also be brought before the Annual Convention."

dividends from the standpoint of the organized farmers. J. Hughes stated that he could safely promise $150 in behalf of the Vegreville constituency, towards the cost of the issues.

Mr. Jelliff believed that one or more pamphlets for general distribution were needed, and Mrs. Ross pointed out the necessity of reaching electors who do not receive copies of the Association newspaper.

Legislative Program

In accordance with the policies laid down in the Annual Convention, the Calgary conference laid emphasis on the following legislative program for consideration during the Federal general election campaign. The program is drafted merely for the purpose of emphasizing the policies approved by the Convention with reference to legislative problems in the Federal field.

The program is based upon a report presented by a committee consisting of Mrs. R. B. Gunn, U. F. A. Executive; H. G. Braden, representing the Federal Constituency Associations, and Robert Gardiner, representing the Federal members. The report was presented by Mr. Gardiner, who gave a concise account of what has been done by the Federal members at Ottawa to advance the policies of the Association.

(1) Retention of Crow's Nest Pass Agreement in Its Entirety.—Mr. Gardiner described this as "probably the most important piece of legislation on our program." There is still some possibility of a renewed fight for the abrogation of the Crow's Nest Pass grain rates. "We cannot afford to back one iota from the position we have taken in the past to retain the statutory grain rates provided in the Agreement," said Mr. Gardiner.

(2) Demanding the Immediate Transfer of the Natural Resources of Alberta to the Control of the Province. In the discussion of this matter, Mr. Coote declared, "If you want to get the natural resources, Alberta must send ten or twelve U. F. A. members to the next House of Commons. We should not have made the progress that has been made but for the presence of the U. F. A. group in Parliament."

(3) Revaluation of Soldiers' Settlement Lands.—A bill providing for revaluation was nearing its concluding stage in the last House. It was introduced largely as a result of pressure brought to bear by U. F. A. members.

(4) Amendment of Canada Grain Act in the Interests of the Producers.—The amendments desired included what has been described as the "Campbell amendment" and certain other amendments desired in the interests of the producers. Mr. Gardiner believed that the producers would receive more sympathetic treatment were the administration of the Act under the control of the Department of Agriculture, instead of the Department of Trade and Commerce. The importance of extensive laboratory tests to determine the protein content and moisture of grain was dwelt upon during the discussion. The "Campbell" bill was in the Senate when Parliament was dissolved.

(5) Rural Credits.—It was pointed out that the Long Term Farm Credits Bill had passed through both the House of Commons and the Senate, and merely awaited the Governor-General's signature when Mr. Meighen advised dissolution, thereby killing the bill.

(6) Revision of Rules of the House of Commons.—Mr. Gardiner explained that these rules were drawn up with a view to carrying on public affairs under the party system, that they seriously hamper the freedom of private members, and need drastic revision in order to meet the new conditions brought about by the election of independent groups to the House.

(7) Preferential Ballot in Single Member Constituencies.—Our members have persistently sought to obtain this legislation, and the principle had been accepted by Mr. Mackenzie King as a result of Farmer members' representations.

(8) Peace River Outlet and Branch Lines.—Mr. Kennedy spoke at length on this subject, stating that the construction of branch lines to serve the northern territory was of more pressing importance than any other problem. Pending the time when a direct outlet to the Pacific could be secured, the fixing of rates on the same level as the prairie rates and the payment of the difference from the public funds, was essential.

(9) Representation for Alberta on Vancouver Harbor Board.

(10) Old Age Pensions.—The bill introduced last session was killed by the Senate.

(11) Co-operative Marketing.—Mr. Gardiner stated that as a result of representations by the Farmer members, the late Government had agreed to support co-operative marketing in principle, and it was hoped that arrangements would be made for officials of the Department of Agriculture to carry on educational work on behalf of the co-operative marketing movement. Mr. Gardiner pointed out that in some of the Eastern Provinces the need for further education is still great.

(12) Transportation of Alberta Coal to Eastern Markets at Cost.—Mr. Garland was called on and spoke briefly upon the present situation in regard to this matter.

(13) Financial Reform.—Since 1921, the U. F. A. members have given this subject a prominent place in their program at Ottawa, and have already achieved definite success in certain directions. Mr. Spencer and others declared that this question was likely to prove of the very greatest importance in the near future.

(14) Personal Naturalization of Married Women.—This provides that women shall become British subjects only by personal naturalization and that women of British nationality shall not lose their British citizenship as a result of marriage to aliens.

(15) Legal Domicile.—Under the present law a married woman is considered to be domiciled in the Province in which her husband may be living, and can only obtain divorce in such a Province. The proposed legislation would entitle a married woman to be legally domiciled in the Province in which she might reside.

(16) Removal of Mountain Differential.—Mr. Kennedy dwelt upon the urgent necessity for the entire removal of the differential rates on freight through the mountains.

(17) Reduction of the Tariff.

(Continued on page 13)

Who Is Canada's Best Business Man?

By BERT RUFFMAN

During the recent Provincial campaign in Alberta, leaders and speakers of the two political parties made great capital out of the specious plea for what they termed "A Business Administration". They said Alberta sorely needed business efficiency. The country needed the practical business brains represented by certain lawyers posing as leaders and candidates of the two political parties. The farmers were lacking in this special gift from heaven, or somewhere else, it seems.

PATRIOTICALLY LEAPED INTO THE BREACH

And the lawyers and doctors patriotically leaped into the breach, as Liberal and Conservative candidates, to supply the "business efficiency" which the farmers lacked. It was a most laughable situation, if one had a sense of humor.

And the farmers of Alberta have not yet stopped laughing at the terrible butchery of the English language in the daily press, in the frantic effort to elect these brainy business lawyers and doctors in a Province 85 per cent. agricultural.

In opening the Federal campaign, which political trickery and political hypocrisy have foisted upon the overburdened country, both the leaders of the two antediluvian political parties, have stressed the appalling need of a more business government.

This terrible need of good business administration has suddenly overleaped the bounds of Alberta and has enveloped the entire Dominion in one gory, "patriotic" spasm. The Dominion is in desperate need of brains and experience, and Mr. Meighen has so far named sixteen lawyers, doctors, brokers, speculators and other "business men" to form a cabinet for this leading agricultural country of the earth.

NOT ONE FARMER WITH SUFFICIENT BRAINS

Not one farmer in the Dominion could be found with sufficient brains to grace the Meighen cabinet. And Mr. King will also search with his high power microscope for that missing link in the census lists, a farmer with brains enough to sit in a Dominion cabinet.

In the meantime the farmer, himself, is washing his neck and ears after a dusty day on the summer-fallow, and smiling through the dirt at the sham and camouflage and duplicity of partisan leaders.

And in a quiet hour after the chores are done, this farmer asks himself this pertinent crucial question of citizenship: "Who is the best Business Man in this Dominion of Canada?"

And since both Liberal and Conservative leaders are in search of business ability, it is a good time to analyze the business merits of our citizenship.

VITALLY INTERESTED IN BEST FORM OF GOVERNMENT

Here is a farmer on his land with his life rooted into the very soil. His entire wealth is tied up in that farm. His family has been born and is being reared and educated there. That farm is his idol, his workshop, his sole possession in worldly goods. Its production is his life and sustenance. Its efficiency is his success or failure. Its perpetuity and fertility are his anchor of hope. He is planted there, as firmly as his shelter belt around the barn lot. He is a fixture, a rooted tree in the citizenship of the country. He is vitally interested in the best form of government possible to safeguard his ownership and income in that farm.

That farmer has made a success of life and is now in middle age, taking part in the organized efforts of farmers to administer the government of the Province. He may not be highly educated. He may not boast a technical library of numberless dusty volumes, but he has practical business sense and a well head-ed experience.

(Continued on page 10)

Declaration of Principles Unanimously Adopted by the Annual Convention of the United Farmers of Alberta January 23rd, 1925

The Conference between the U. F. A. Central Executive, officers of U. F. A. Federal Constituency Associations, and the U. F. A. members of the last House of Commons, held in Calgary last week, unanimously recommended that every U. F. A. candidate nominated for election to the next Parliament, shall be pledged to the Declaration of Principles adopted unanimously by the Anpual Convention in 1925. Important resolutions passed by the Conference as recommendations, are printed elsewhere in this issue.

The Declaration of Principles adopted in 1925 is given in full below:

Whereas, the 1919 U. F. A. Convention decided officially to go into political action, and passed a resolution authorizing the U. F. A. Locals of each constituency to use the U. F. A. organization machinery for the purpose of nominating and electing a U. F. A. candidate in that district, and,

Whereas, there have arisen misunderstandings and differences of opinion, and different interpretations in regard to the terms of that resolution, especially regarding the following points, viz.:

1. Whom the elected candidate represents in his official capacity.

2. On what basis he is supposed to co-operate with other U. F. A. members, and on what basis all U. F. A. members are supposed to co-operate, in the interest of good legislation, with other political parties, groups or individuals.

3. In regard to "Constituency Autonomy", just how far this autonomy extends, and where it ceases. Now, therefore, be it,

Resolved, that this Convention, speaking as the supreme U. F. A. authority, officially declares:

1. That each elected member who has been nominated by the U. F. A. organization in any constituency, shall be known only as a U. F. A. representative, and shall be expected to attach himself to no other legislative group or party, and further, that each U. F. A. member is responsible directly to his own U. F. A. constituency organization and that organization is responsible to the U. F. A. organization as a whole.

2. That each candidate so elected shall be expected to co-operate as an individual with all other U. F. A. members, thereby forming and organizing a Parliamentary group unit; and that this U. F. A. group unit shall be expected to co-operate as such with other Parliamentary parties, groups, or individual members, when practicable to do so in the interests of desirable legislation.

3. That each constituency shall have the fullest autonomy in nominating and electing a candidate, as outlined in the two above clauses, but this Convention specifically declares that no constituency shall have the right to use the U. F. A. organization in that constituency for the purpose of nominating and electing a candidate in any other understanding than that outlined above, in clauses one and two of this resolution. And, be it further,

4. Resolved, that nothing in the above resolution shall be so construed as to prevent the U. F. A. Parliamentary group from acting with, and inviting into their group councils, individual Parliamentary members, especially those elected by other farmers' organizations, similar to the U. F. A., when a majority of the said U. F. A. group decide that it is expedient and advisable to do so. And be it further,

5. Resolved, that when a bona fide farm organization, such as the U. F. A., from another Province, elects a group of legislative members, and these members organize themselves into a legislative group unit representative of that organization, it is the desire of this Convention that our U. F. A. legislative group should co-operate with such a legislative group or groups in the organization of a larger agricultural group containing all such Provincial groups, or as many as will so organize. And be it further,

6. Resolved, that the principles and policies, as declared from time to time by the U. F. A. Conventions, broadly interpreted, shall be the general guiding influence of the U. F. A. members and the U.F.A. legislative group, and, that with these principles in mind, they are expected to use their best judgment in dealing, in a practical way, with all matters of legislation, in the interest of industry as a whole, and further, that the U. F. A. members and the U. F. A. legislative group shall not be considered as in any way bound by any declaration of principles, or any platform coming from any other source.

7. Be it further resolved, that when a special service is required that calls for special training in order to render that service efficiently, the nominations for a constituency need not necessarily be limited to U. F. A. members, nor even to farmers. The object should be to select a candidate who will be loyal to the U. F. A. and capable of giving efficient service.

8. Resolved, that while the constituency organization is the unit through which the political machinery is operated, this unit does not exist for that purpose only, but for the purpose of carrying on all U. F. A. activities of that constituency, therefore, we believe that it is misleading to call them Political Associations, and we advise that all U. F. A. units of our organization be called U. F. A. units only.

Urges Adoption of Municipal School System in Alberta

R. H. Macdonald of Trochu Local Has Important Article on This Subject in Alberta Teachers' Alliance Magazine

Equalization of taxation and of educational opportunity are two of the advantages of a municipal school system, in the opinion of R. H. Macdonald, of Trochu U. F. A. Local, in a series of articles commencing in the June issue of the A. T. A. Magazine. Mr. Macdonald, who is a strong advocate of the municipal system, urges all members of the Association to study this subject.

Mr. Macdonald sketches briefly the various educational systems that have been in vogue since the early civilizations, and indicates the different conceptions of a "good citizen" which these systems were intended to produce.

SYSTEM IN VOGUE ELSEWHERE

Small local units were organized in the rural sections of England, the United States, and Canada. In England the county system was adopted in 1902, and in 1924 it had been put into effect in 32 of the 49 states of the Union. To the extent of distribution of cost over a larger area than the small local district, this system has been adopted in Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Manitoba and British Columbia. [This was written before the last session of the Alberta Legislature, when legislation was passed giving a measure of equalization.—Ed.]

A great measure of respect and credit is due to the "little old red school", says Mr. Macdonald, "For the system under which it has been administered and to the patriots who have built up that system, we owe a debt that cannot easily be paid. The greatest attribute of the system is that it is flexible enough to be changed as conditions warrant, and the people demand alterations."

Among the deficiencies of the present system of rural education in Alberta, in Mr. Macdonald's opinion, are the number of schools not operated or operated only part time; inequalities of taxation; lack of vocational training; retardation of pupils; examination system; and lack of supervision.

SUMMARIZES ADVANTAGES OF MUNICIPAL SYSTEM

On the other hand, the advantages to be gained by a municipal school system, and its fundamental principles, are summarized by Mr. Macdonald as follows:

"1. The equalization of opportunity and taxation over the municipality.

"2. Supervision. It is argued that the number of schools in a municipality is too small to justify employing a superintendent. If that is true, let two municipalities co-operate in this matter. Or, better still, let the supervisor spend more time teaching in high school and less on the road covering a larger area.

"3. Efficient business administration of the affairs of all the schools by one board of trustees representing each ward in the municipality.

"4. Elimination of the necessity of constantly changing the boundaries of districts by the laying of a foundation

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"5. Provision of adequate high school facilities in village centres within the municipality. If no village exists it would be cheaper and more efficient for the municipality to contribute towards the cost of sending high school pupils to the nearest high school—if it is not advisable to build one—than to retard all the rural schools by teaching high school subjects in them."

REPORT OF A MANITOBA COMMISSION

A number of excerpts from the report of a Government commission on the municipal school at Miniota, Manitoba, are given. This report concludes: "Your commission are of the opinion that the Miniota experiment furnishes the last and strongest link in a very substantial chain of evidence and that it would be in the interests of education to make the municipality the unit of administration throughout the Province."

Upon the organizations of trustees and of teachers, and upon all other rural organizations, concludes Mr. Macdonald, "devolves the responsibility of creating the public opinion that will not only determine the system of administration under which our schools shall operate, but also the national ideal or conception of the 'Good Citizen' produced by our educational system."

All readers interested in this subject will find the articles in the A. T. A. Magazine, which can be obtained from the publishers, Edmonton.

"The U.F.A." Prize Contest for Best Article on Co-operative Store

Contest Open to All Members of the Alberta Co-operative League—Have You Entered for the $25 Prize?

"The U. F. A." offers a prize of $25 for the best article by a member of the Alberta Co-operative League, describing the history and difficulties met with and the factors which have made for success in co-operative store management in Alberta.

Articles should be confined as far as possible to from 750 to 1,000 words in length, and should be forwarded by contestants to T. Swindlehurst, Secretary of the Alberta Co-operative League, Edgerton, in order that we may ascertain that the membership qualification has been met. Mr. Swindlehurst will then forward the articles to the editor of this paper.

Mr. Swindlehurst is the manager of the Edgerton co-operative store. He contributes the article published below.

Story of Edgerton Co-operative Assn.

By T. SWINDLEHURST

Co-operation! What an immense field of operation this word conjures up to the mind. It is the watchword of the hour. The churches of Canada are uniting, because collectively they can be of much greater service, not only by eliminating a waste of material in the duplication of church buildings, and the services of a double pastorate in one community, but also by bringing the people of the different denominations together, and thereby creating a better and more harmonious feeling towards each other.

A PEOPLE'S CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT

The manufacturers, the wholesale houses, and the retail trades organizations co-operate for their mutual benefit. We have a people's co-operative movement, the object of which is, as far as possible to eliminate intermediate unnecessary labor and expense between the producer and consumer, and by this means secure the producer a fair return for his labor, while the consumers mainly themselves with the means of living at the minimum outlay.

As members of the Alberta Co-operative League, we are co-operating with our fellow members for the uplifting of humanity, morally and spiritually, which is the highest ideal. Our motto, "Each for all, and all for each."

CAN LOOK FOR BIG FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

We have a long way to go before attaining the success accomplished by co-operators in other countries. They have had a good start, which ought not to discourage us. For one thing, at the present time the West has not the population, which is a big handicap, but with the natural resources at the command of Alberta, as we hope they will be in the immediate future, we can look for big developments.

We have made a start with the beet sugar factory at Raymond, at a cost of one million dollars. This plant is drawing beets from 6,000 acres of land, and employing 500 men. It is a new industry, and if it proves a success, is only the forerunner of a chain of such plants to be established in the irrigated lands of Southern Alberta.

In Northern Alberta there has been opened recently a salt factory, that will shortly be capable of supplying all the needs of the Province. Then we have the oil wells, which will be productive of large revenues. All these industries are finding employment for a large number of people, and helping to increase the population. As this increases we can look forward to big developments in the co-operative movement. Members of Co-operative Associations emigrating from other countries, knowing the benefits of the movement, will naturally give their support here.

WHAT ARE FACTORS MAKING FOR SUCCESS?

What are the factors making for success in the co-operative movement? They are, to eliminate by means of mutual association, the present competitive system, and to substitute mutual co-operation for the common good of all human society. There is an old saying that necessities are silent, but for the

[illegible] of Locals who are [illegible] the opening of a store, the [illegible] attached to the Alberta Co-[illegible] League have been asked to [illegible] a short history of their own [illegible]. The first essential is a co-[illegible] spirit and working for [illegible] but for the good of all.

[illegible] HISTORY OF THE [illegible] SOCIETY

[illegible] Association was [illegible] on the [illegible] May [illegible]. [illegible] that there has been quite a [illegible] interested [illegible] for share capital. The [illegible] conditions prevailing at the time [illegible] was subscribed. A board of directors was elected and they decided [illegible] a start in a small way. After [illegible] preliminary expenses, we had [illegible] in stock. One room on a [illegible] was rented [illegible], and a [illegible] counter put up, [illegible] to the [illegible] of our capital, and we were ready [illegible] business.

[illegible] was decided to open one day a week [illegible]. After two weeks this [illegible] proved a success, so the store opened [illegible] every day in the week. From [illegible] beginning we gradually devel-[illegible]. Extra shelves and a [illegible] counter were [illegible] as the busi-[illegible] increased. A [illegible] room was added [illegible] rest room provided for the women [illegible] from a distance; also a trav-[illegible] library from the Department of [illegible] University of Alberta.

[illegible] ACCOMMODATION

[illegible] the end of [illegible] years, the business [illegible] outgrown the accommodation of the [illegible]. One of the [illegible] merchants [illegible] of [illegible] business and [illegible] the option to rent the same [illegible] these [illegible] and all [illegible] for an increasing [illegible] the directors decided that was our [illegible] and seized it.

[illegible] increased turnover has proved the [illegible] of their decision. It was decided [illegible] to [illegible] out the [illegible] principles [illegible] strictly cash [illegible] has been adhered to. The [illegible] of this is every [illegible] there are no [illegible] to write off at the end of the [illegible]. We make prompt cash payments, take [illegible] discount [illegible] that we can meet all competition.

[illegible] AMOUNT [illegible] SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL

[illegible] shares are $[illegible] fully paid, which [illegible] 8 per cent. per annum interest. [illegible] per [illegible] dividend on purchases for the first [illegible] years and [illegible] year 5 per cent. [illegible] put to reserve [illegible] of depression, or for other [illegible] such as building, etc. The [illegible] capital [illegible] 450 at present. [illegible] three years we have [illegible] in [illegible] and dividends the sum of $[illegible] means that the shareholders and [illegible] have had returned [illegible] an amount equal to their [illegible] capital and still retain their [illegible].

Other associations will retain their [illegible] and success in the people's movement.

The members of the Alberta Co-opera-tive League will be pleased to forward information and render any help to [illegible] in the formation of a store.

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CALGARY CONFERENCE

(Continued from page 7)

A THREE MOVES FOR GROUP COHESION

A resolution calling for the effective organization of the U. F. A. group unit of Alberta in accordance with the Declaration of Principles was moved by A. P. Allen and seconded by [illegible] and after a discussion which occupied great part of the afternoon and evening the resolution which he proposed in a long speech dealing with this matter was unanimously adopted. The resolution was based on a draft prepared by a committee consisting of Robert Gardiner, S. [illegible] and R. C. Jellicoe with certain [illegible] made at the suggestion of E. J. Garland.

MUST BE DISTINCT FROM PROGRESSIVES

Mr. Allen declared that since 1921 there seemed to have been serious misunderstanding of the position of the U. F. A. which should be a distinct group at Ottawa. Our members have not been able to keep their group unity [illegible] is quite clear that they must be organized as an organized group distinct from the Progressives. There had been serious misunderstanding in regard to constituency autonomy. Mr. Gardiner asked for an expression as to whether the U. F. A. members of Parliament should govern themselves by majority vote. Mr. Allen replying that the U. F. A. was organized to get away from the individual idea, that check and force was needed not only economically but also politically.

The chairman, when approached, gave his opinion that the members should be governed by majority decision.

Expressing the opinion that the important point in the discussion had been missed, Robert Gardiner said he did not believe that Quebecers group all U. F. A. members of the House of Commons bill, [illegible] with the decision of a majority was the essential point.

MUST COOPERATE FROM WITHIN ANOTHER GROUP

"It is not whether we can all vote as a unit that matters primarily," said he. "The interpretation of Clause 4 in the Declaration of Principles is that every U. F. A. member shall be true to the U. F. A. unit and shall not become part of another unit. Miss McPhail in the last Parliament was the only member from another Province who was elected by an organization on the same basis as our [illegible] would rather see a division on legislative program than on the principles of organization which the Association has laid down. The best thing is for the responsibility of members in the organization. Every member should be pledged to the Declaration of Principles before nomination and should be first and foremost a member of the U. F. A. group unit, which should be outside all other ties. We are in [illegible] with others who [illegible] FROM WITHIN OTHER GROUPS. There may be some excuse for what we did in [illegible] but I am more convinced in my mind before that if we had stayed outside our strength would have been [illegible]. In the past, in so far as the Federal members are concerned, there has been a great variance of opinion as to their responsibilities in the organization. The responsibility must be direct to the constituency organization, and the

(Continued on page 14)

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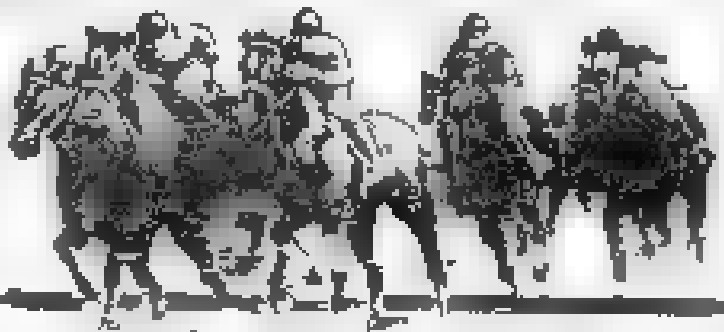

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PARI-MUTUAL SYSTEM

NEWS FROM THE ALBERTA WHEAT POOL HEAD OFFICE

Alberta Pool Purchases Elevators at 18 Points, New Elevators Being Built at 12 Others

CHAS. M. HALL, MANAGER POOL ELEVATORS

Initial Payment for 1926 Pool $1.00 Bushel

Second Interim Payment of 2½c a Bushel Made to Pool Members

Striking Comment on Seizing Strength of Canadian Trade

U.F.A. Nominating Conventions

Spencer Is Re-nominated by Acclamation at Rousing Convention at Wainwright

By E. J. GARLAND

system of government, [illegible] creation of selective [illegible] creation have nothing [illegible]

CRIPPED BY SPENCER'S DEEP SINCERITY

E. H. Spencer's address and report [illegible]

[illegible] Federal field [illegible] wonderful success in the recent Fe[illegible]

[illegible] the audience and included representatives of F. J. [illegible] and E. [illegible]

Mr. Sutherland thought there was real danger of "making a god of constituency autonomy." The constituency unit was merely an aggregation of U. F. A. Locals, acting together for a particular purpose, but they were all members of the larger Provincial Association. It was absolutely necessary, he believed, for the members to get together on a basis which could not be misunderstood.

NEED TO CO-ORDINATE ACTIVITIES

If the definite principles laid down by the U. F. A. were to be disregarded, thought Mr. Critchlow—the principles of industrial group representation—"we might as well adhere to the old party system." He dwelt on the necessity for co-ordinating all U. F. A. activities.

Mr. Leonard also emphasized the importance of loyal co-operation and fundamental unity in support of the broad principles of the U. F. A., in respect to all U. F. A. activities.

Mr. Lunn believed the essential thing was to maintain the responsibility of all branches of the Association to the Organization as a whole.

The resolution respecting the Declaration of Principles, quoted elsewhere, was afterwards carried unanimously at the close of the discussion on this subject. Later in the evening, the resolution moved by Mrs. Gunn, recommending that the U. F. A. Parliamentary group report to the Association as a whole, was also carried unanimously.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUE

Upon being called upon to discuss the constitutional issue, Mr. Garland said that he would try to state the case with as complete absence of personal opinion as possible. There were three stages in the development of the situation prior to dissolution that attracted interest.

(1) The action of the Governor-General himself.

(2) The Legislative and constitutional aspects.

(3) The Meighen administration.

After a brief review of the circumstances preceding the dissolution, Mr. Garland concluded that the present right of the Premier to advise dissolution is an autocratic power that must be taken from him. He stated that there is no freedom in a House when a Prime Minister can threaten dissolution. "If you don't settle this question," said Mr. Garland, "your whole program of work is in danger. With that power over the members there is no freedom left. It helps to weaken every intelligent mind in Parliament. It is the pet weapon of both of the old parties. The power of dissolution itself, in the hands of a Prime Minister, may tempt him to advise the Governor-General wrongly. Mr. King had no moral right to ask for dissolution. He made the crown appear to be partisan."

CONSTRUCTIVE PROPOSAL INSTEAD OF BARREN DEBATE

Mr. Kennedy expressed his complete approval of the resolution, and said that a constructive proposal such as it contained was of far greater value than all the barren debate on constitutional questions between the old parties.

Mr. Coote fully approved of the resolution, and said that he would himself be prepared to go further and recommend that the term of Parliament be fixed by statute. "It is just a dog fight between the political parties today," he

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said, "with dissolution always threatening. The parties are so busy with the dog fight that they have no time to legislate in the interests of the people. Five-sixths of the time is taken up by a fight between the two parties. So long as there is no election in sight the one party has no chance to get in and much of the incentive to the dog fight is lost."

Following discussion on the proposal of statutory limitation of the life of Parliament, it was decided that the original resolution should be submitted to the Conventions. It was pointed out that the reform proposed in the resolution adopted would be easier to get and would involve less drastic change and perhaps arouse less controversy than a proposal at this time to fix Parliamentary term. Mr. Garland and Mr. Gardiner both expressed this view.

It was decided, however, that Mr. Coote's suggestion regarding the fixing of the Parliamentary term should be brought before the Annual Convention for consideration, and also a suggestion by Mr. Coote that a member of the House of Commons who takes a portfolio from the cabinet shall be freed from the necessity of going back for re-election.

OFFICERS PRESENT AT CONFERENCE

Cairnoss, H. McKenzie, T. Grandage; Vegreville, H. O. Braden, J. Hughes; Red Deer, T. Sigurdson; West Edmonton, W. C. Turnbull, G. Keyles; East Edmonton, C. Burnell, F. C. Clare; Peace River, H. Critchlow, J. Messmer; Athabasca, F. Mawson; Bow River, D. Sinclair, H. W. Leonard; East Calgary, Mrs. H. E. Scholefield, S. J. Ewing; Lethbridge, Mrs. Fred King; Medicine Hat, H. C. McDaniel, Mrs. Winnifred Baker; Wetaskiwin, Mrs. W. Ross; Acadia, R. Cates; Battle River, A. P. Aitken, R. A. Sack; Macleod, S. Lunn.

Federal members—D. M. Kennedy, Peace River; E. J. Garland, Bow River; H. Gardiner, Acadia; H. E. Spencer, Battle River; L. H. Jelliff, Lethbridge; G. G. Coote, Macleod.

U. F. A. executive—Act. Pres., H. E. G. H. Scholefield, Crossfield; Stephen Lunn, Pincher Creek; H. C. McDaniel, Wetila; A. P. Aitken, Moyarton; Mrs. R. B. Gunn, New Lindsay. U. F. W. A. executive—Mrs. F. E. Wyman, 1st vice-pres.; Mrs. J. W. Field, 2nd vice-pres.

It was the pleasure of the gathering that the doorkeeper should admit members of the U. F. A. who were properly vouched for by the assembly and there was a considerable number of visitors. The press were excluded.

The Conference adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

POLITICAL PARTY SYSTEM FORMED ON COMPETITIVE BASIS OFFERS NO HOPE OF BRINGING ORDER OUT OF THE PRESENT CONFUSION

(Continued from page 1)

IMMUNITY OF ALL COULD NOT BE EXPECTED

It cannot be expected that all of them, under this blighting influence, could remain absolutely immune to the germs of their old political affiliations. The cunning appeals by trained experts in heated debates to those not thoroughly grounded in a knowledge of what is involved in the process of the two systems, could only be expected to be almost irresistible.

Added to this is the fact that our members of the U. F. A. group who stand for the only logical system that has ever been offered in opposition to the old party system, have been acting in close co-operation with other members who do not stand for the new system. These members are only partially organized and do not stand, as a whole, for any definite system. This puts them in a weak position, and our members being identified with them as a mixed group, unavoidably partake more or less of that weakness.

The appeal to revert to partyism is much clearer among these detached members than among our own. When that appeal is visibly responded to by them, it would unavoidably have a demoralizing influence over some of our own members. The beginning of disintegration was very manifest among those detached members in last year's election, and will probably continue at the coming election.

TIME TO STAND AS SOLID UNIT

It would seem that the time has come when our representatives who stand definitely for a definite system (which is definitely opposed to the old system) will have to stand solidly together as a unit in its defence. This will not weaken their position in any way. Their voting strength will be just as great as it has been. In fact, it will be greater, because it will be more highly mobilized. Nor need it in any way weaken the strength of those who have been acting with them. That group can still decide the merits of legislation offered just as intelligently as it ever has, and vote just as solidly.

Under this arrangement our representatives can better protect themselves from the disintegration that has already set in in the other group, while in no way whatever contributing to that disintegration.

I think that a greater understanding of what is involved in the present situation by both the electorate of the constituencies and their elected members, is vital to the best interests of our movement.

We have offered to the world a system to take the place of the old party system—a system based on co-operation, designed to bring social elements in co-operation with each other, and to take the place of the present hopeless political system that is based on the principle of dividing the citizenship against itself in the development of utter confusion.

NO RIGHT TO ACCEPT UNLESS BELIEVES IN PRINCIPLES

Every citizen in Alberta who believes in this new system is bound by every responsibility of citizenship to become active in the use of his best judgment and energy in protecting and guarding its growth and development. No citizen has a right to use his vote in the election of a member unless he is fully persuaded in his own mind that that member will be true to his trust, and will intelligently protect the principles of our movement on every occasion. No citizen has a right to accept a nomination from a U. F. A. Convention unless he believes in the principles of the movement and will stand by them faithfully on all occasions. If he does not believe in them, or if he doubts them, he cannot honorably take such a nomination. Loyalty and sincerity of purpose on the part of every individual who is interested are the first essentials in carrying forward this work. Without this we cannot hope to succeed. With it we have nothing to fear.

WHO IS CANADA'S BEST BUSINESS MAN?

(Continued form page 7)

He has been forced to stand alone against the combined attacks of every conceivable element which lives upon the credulity of the public. He has been handicapped for want of funds.

HOW THE FARMER HAS BEEN MADE OVER

The farmer has been made resourceful and versatile by the pressure of economic conditions. He has been made over into a thorough, practical, efficient business man by the very force of arbitrary conditions with which the business world has surrounded him.

Today this farmer is the best business man in the Dominion of Canada. The government is safer in his hands than in the hands of any other citizenship group, because his great privation in the past has made him resourceful and self reliant. The business forces which were organized to make him their prey, have awakened to find him their agile and resourceful rival and equal, in every sense of the word.

Any man who has hammered success out of the conditions which have arbitrarily surrounded agriculture in Western Canada for the past twenty years, certainly stands high in the ranks of practical business men. He has not only had natural conditions, always adverse in a new country, to contend with, but he has been handicapped by transportation companies, grain gambling concerns, money lending concerns, tariffs, high freight rates, high costs of his necessities, cramped and narrow markets for his products, circumscribed limits for his natural abilities and every other obstacle which a commercial, selfish age could throw around his life.

SAFE MAN IN SEAT OF GOVERNMENT

A man who has made an agricultural success and has lived to middle age to tell the tale, after the farmer's experience in the West for the past quarter of a century, is a safe man to rule this Dominion. His conception of a government is a permanent, unshakable thing like a home on a farm.

It required seven hundred years to build the City of Rome up to the zenith of her grandeur and power as the Mistress of the World. And yet the Vandals sacked it and despoiled it in fourteen days. Vandalism is represented by this silly political opposition in our Parliaments. It tears down faster than all the architects on earth can build up.

The farmer's conception of a solid government is not one of opposition for selfish political purposes, but of co-operation for the perpetual good of all. And because the farmer movement as represented by the U. F. A. stands for continual co-operation and upbuilding rather than tearing down for temporary political advantage, it is the safest and most enduring force in Canadian politics today.

And I therefore hope in my heart that the entire West may send back to Ottawa this autumn the greatest number of U. F. A. members elected by the greatest majorities ever yet recorded.

The farmer with his life interest planted deep in the soil of this land is far safer than any migrating professional life, here today, away tomorrow.

Langdon, July 25, 1926.

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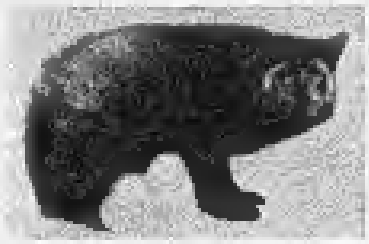

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